

Proverbs 14:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

Analysis

The scorner 'seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not'—not because wisdom is hidden, but because the scorner's attitude disqualifies him. The Hebrew 'lets' (scorner/mock) refers to one who treats sacred things with contempt. Meanwhile, 'knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.' The problem isn't intellectual capacity but moral disposition. Reformed theology affirms that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). Without humility before God, intellectual pursuit is futile. The natural man cannot understand spiritual things (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Historical Context

The scorner appears throughout Proverbs as one who rejects correction and mocks instruction. In ancient Israel's wisdom tradition, this attitude excluded one from the community of learners gathered at wisdom's feet.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Do you approach Scripture and spiritual truth with humility or with a critical, mocking spirit?
2. What is the relationship between intellectual understanding and spiritual receptivity?
3. How can you cultivate a heart that is 'understanding' rather than scornful?

Interlinear Text

בִּקֵּשׁ	לֵי	חֵכֶם	וְאִין	וְעַתָּה
seeketh	A scorner	wisdom	H369	and findeth it not but knowledge
H1245	H3887	H2451		H1847
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לְנֹבֵן		נִקְלָה		
unto him that understandeth		is easy		
H995		H7043		

Additional Cross-References

James 1:5 (Parallel theme): If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Proverbs 8:9 (Parallel theme): They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

1 Corinthians 8:2 (Parallel theme): And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.